

The following is the statement of Rep. Pete Stark commemorating the one-year anniversary of September 11th:

“Today, we join together and reflect on a profound national tragedy. We honor those who died and sacrificed their lives. We honor their families and loved ones - those who will not soon forget the deeply personal loss suffered on that day just one year ago.

“There is little solace for America but the realization that September 11th has brought us closer. It has spurred us to recognize our responsibility to each other and our community. It has given us a renewed sense of who we are as a people and as a nation. It has provided an opportunity to celebrate the strength of our diversity. It has underscored the value of showing respect for and understanding the differences we share, even in the midst of intolerance.

“September 11th caused us to reaffirm our ideals as Americans. The aftermath, however, has brought grave challenges to our rights as citizens and changed the nature of our leadership in the world. Despite the threats we may face, it is vital that we rededicate ourselves to democracy and its principles - to protecting civil liberties, working for justice and greater opportunity, and promoting peace and human rights for all people wherever they may live.”